

SOCIETY OF ST. TERESA OF JESUS

18080 St. Joseph Way
Covington, LA 70435

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February 28, 2018

Commissioner Robert Taub, Chairman
Commissioner Tony Hammond, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Nanci Langley
Commissioner Mark Acton
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: Docket No. RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

We join the National Catholic Development Conference (NCDC), the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, and the nonprofit mailing community in urging you to reconsider your proposal to increase postage rates several times the rate of inflation. Increases that are estimated to reach 7 percent a year, or 40 percent compounded for five years, will not reform the United States Postal Service and will have a major negative impact on both the agency and its customers.

As a nonprofit, we rely on mail for the majority of our fundraising. But we operate on a limited, fixed fundraising budget each year, so if postage goes up as much as you contemplate, we will be forced to greatly reduce our mailings. This will have a disastrous impact on our revenue and our mission.

Our mission is to teach young people, especially children, about God's love for them, and to instill in them values which will help them transform society into a loving, compassionate global community. Our Sisters are growing in age and we are depending more and more on fundraisers and mailing campaigns to sustain our ministries, since most of our work is done on a volunteer basis.

Postage increases totaling 40 percent over the next five years will have a serious impact on our mission and the people we serve. For sure, we will have to pull out from some of our ministries, and even close one of our communities (we are at present ministering in Miami (FL), New Orleans and Covington (LA) and San Antonio and Uvalde (TX)).

Please do the right thing and reconsider your proposal.

Sincerely,

Sr. 

Sr. Isabel Ordonez STJ

Development Director for the Society of St. Teresa of Jesus (Teresian Sisters)